

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-35 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 1, 18-21, and 33-35 are independent. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. In light of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The Examiner further rejected claims 1, 3-4, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sakai et al.* (USP 5,453,853); and rejected claims 9-13 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sakai et al.* in view of *Bayramoglu et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0196972). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating claims 2, 5-8, 14-15, and 21-34 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 18-20 to include the elements of allowable claim 2. Applicants have further amended claims 20 and 35 to recite a computer readable medium storing instructions, executed by a processor, to perform an image processing method. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the

Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 20 and 35, by this Amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to recite "a computer-readable medium storing instructions, executed by a processor, to perform an image processing method,...". Based upon this amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim is directed to statutory subject matter. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

As no prior art has been cited against claim 35, based upon Applicants' satisfaction of the Examiner's rejection of claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 35 is in proper form for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the outstanding rejected claims to include the elements of claim 2. As the Examiner has indicated that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the

telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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